

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain in the case. Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 10-13, and 15-18 stand rejected.

Claims 2-3, 6-7, 9, and 14 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Specifically, claims 1, 4-5, 8, 10-13, and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Saegusa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,681). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons outlined below.

The M.P.E.P requires that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be based on a comprehensive and detailed disclosure of each and every element claimed.¹ The cited reference, Saegusa, does not set forth each and every element of the claimed invention and therefore cannot serve as the basis for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The present application is directed toward the problem of contending (or conflicting) assignments of device IDs on a SCSI bus. The application specifically describes one example in

¹ M.P.E.P § 2136.02 states:

“When a U.S. patent . . . is used to reject claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), the disclosure relied on in the rejection must be present in the issued patent.”

M.P.E.P § 2131 states:

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” (citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

“The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” (citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

which an assignment for a second host conflicts with an assignment for a hard disk drive (both assigned to device ID #6). As recited in each of the independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 13 and as acknowledged in the previous Office Action, one feature of the claimed invention is the assignment of identical device IDs to 1) a host computer, and 2) another device while connected to a SCSI bus.

Saegusa discusses two separate systems that are only interconnected after a fault of a device in one system. *Saegusa et. al.*, U.S. Patent 6,038,681, col. 3, 55-59 (Mar. 14, 2000) ("The SCSI data buses A3 and A5 are normally in a disconnection state. When the data buses A3 and A5, and the control buses A2 and A4 are in the disconnection state, the array controllers 2 and 3 independently control their SCSIs."). While the separate systems are operating independently, there are no devices on a single SCSI that are in conflict because each I_SPC 13, 14, 17, 18 for each host 19, 20 is given device ID #7 and each logical structure disks 7,8,9,10 are given device ID #0. *Id.* at col. 3, 23-28. Note also that for a given system, only one I_SPC connects a logical structure disk to a host at a time and the other logical structure disk is a backup, so during operation there are no conflicting device IDs. *Id.* at col. 1, 8-12.

Saegusa discloses ". . . when a fault occurs in one of the array controllers 2 and 3, and the other array controller in which no fault occurs is connected to the logical drive of the array controller in which the fault occurs," *Id.* at col. 3, 32-35. There is no disclosure of two active hosts connected at the same time to a SCSI bus. There is also no disclosure of a host and a device with conflicting device IDs connected at the same time to a SCSI bus.

The present invention discloses a plurality of hosts and one or more other devices connected to a SCSI bus while operating. The present invention discloses a system, method and

apparatus to resolve a contention between a host computer and another device with contending device IDs while the system is in operation.

In order to move prosecution along, claims 1, 5, and 8 have been amended to make more clear a plurality of hosts connected to one or more devices by a SCSI bus. With the amended claims, Applicants respectfully assert that Saegusa does not disclose identical or conflicting device ID assignments on a SCSI bus at the same time as disclosed in the present invention and cannot properly serve as an anticipatory prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). In addition to the unanticipated feature of conflicting ID assignments connected to a SCSI bus, Applicants assert that many other features of the claimed invention in the present application are not anticipated by Saegusa. These additional unanticipated features, although not discussed in detail herein, include 1) a plurality of host and one or more other devices on a SCSI bus, 2) establishing that a terminal power of a host is active, 3) inputting a reset signal as described, 4) outputting a reset signal as described, and 5) a conflict resolution module configured to provide a reset signal under the conditions described.

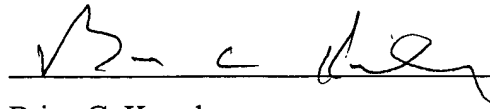
CONCLUSION

As a result of the presented remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 13 are in condition for prompt allowance. Consequently, dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, and 9-18, which depend from these independent claims, are also in condition for prompt allowance.

Should additional information be required regarding the traversal of the rejections of the independent and dependent claims enumerated above, the Examiner is respectfully asked to

notify Applicants of such need. If any impediments to the prompt allowance of the claims can be resolved by a telephone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. C. Kunzler', is written over a horizontal line.

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